



Board Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDING:

Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz, Dr. Michael Odell, Dr. Neil Gray, Ms. Laura Owens, Mr. Jeffry Kennemer, Mr. Daniel Rodriguez, Ms. Angela Wright, Dr. Jo Ann Simmons, multiple directors, staff and parents (35+ participants).

OPENING:

The board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz on Thursday, September 10, 2020 via Zoom teleconferencing.

1. Call to Order:

Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz confirmed a quorum of Board members were present.

2. Pledge:

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

ACTION ITEMS:

3. Consent Agenda

- Previous Minutes, July 23, 2020. Fix period on 'Ms.' at the bottom of document.
1st motion: Mr. Rodriguez, 2nd motion: Mr. Gray. Motion passed 7-0.
- Previous Minutes, Special Meeting, August 3, 2020. Typo on word 'hybrid' and fix period on 'Ms.' at the bottom of document.
1st motion: Ms. Wright, 2nd motion: Mr. Kennemer. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Request to Extend the Start of the 2020-2021 School Transition Beyond the 4-Week Limit (Waiver Required)

- Dr. Simmons discussed that teachers need the additional time to support both on-campus and remote learners, plan, etc. Continuing the Remote Fridays would allow for added time to adjust. One of the Fridays is already a scheduled PD day with no school for students. Some students are required to be on campus during this extended transition period; those in the 11/12th grade hybrid may be asked to come on campus on the Remote Fridays to account for in-person instruction being offered. 97% of teachers and 62% of parents support the additional transition period.
1st motion: Dr. Gray, 2nd motion: Dr. Odell. Motion passed 7-0.

5. Request Approval of Code of Conduct Update Due to New Title IX Regulations

- Ms. Krier addressed the areas that required slight verbiage changes to meet the new Title IX regulations and adopted policies at UT Tyler.
1st motion: Mr. Kennemer, 2nd motion: Dr. Gray. Motion passed 7-0.

6. Policy Updates

- This item was tabled as the entire manual will need to be replaced with new format released by Texas Charter School Association. The policies have been reorganized, renumbered, restructured, so adopting in pieces would cause conflict.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7. Superintendent Report:

- 2020-2021 Student Handbook Updates
Updates were made to reflect the new Title IX regulations.

- Financial Updates
 - Ms. Chesnut went over current budget figures.
- Enrollment/Attendance
- Current enrollment is 842 students, with 329 in Tyler, 260 in Longview, and 253 in Palestine. Of those, 648 are on-campus and 194 remote. Attendance is at 97.2% as of 8/28/2020.
- COVID procedures are in place to document who is on and off-campus and required notices are being sent as needed. The part-time nurses for Longview and Palestine will be hired soon to help manage students there. PPE is being delivered by TEA, we have ordered more thermometers to test as students arrive to campus, should be here soon.

8. Motion for Adjournment:

1st motion: Mr. Kennemer, 2nd motion: Mr. Rodriguez. Motion passed 6-0 (Gray left during Informational Items)
Adjournment occurred at 1:13 p.m.